

**REMARKS**

A petition to extend the time for response by two (2) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 14, 25 and 29 have been amended. Claims 14 - 34 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 14 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Also, in the Office Action, claims 33 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 14 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,144,718 to Ozawa.

Claim 14 has now been amended to refer to “the other one” in lieu of “at least one.” Claim 25 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 14, as has claim 29. Accordingly, through these amendments, it is believed sufficient reasons have been given to enable the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection of claims 14 – 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,144,718 to Ozawa is respectfully requested in view of the amendments of claims 14, 25, and 29 and the following comments.

Independent claim 14 recites a door handle for mounting on a refrigeration furniture door. The door handle recited therein is a simple but effective construction made up of an elongated middle piece and two end pieces. Receiving elements are formed on either one of the end pieces or the middle piece, with at least two plug

elements corresponding to the receiving elements formed on one of the middle piece or the end pieces. The end pieces are fixed to the middle piece by the plug elements being inserted into the receiving elements on opposite ends of the middle piece, thereby extending the middle piece in the longitudinal direction with the receiving elements having substantially continuous peripheral walls over their entire length.

Claim 25 recites in independent claim form an assembly kit for a door handle in a manner substantially similar to claim 14. Claim 19 recites a method for producing a door handle in which the elements are formed to result in the individual components of claims 14 and 25, with a final step of fixing the end pieces to the middle piece by inserting the plug elements to attach the end pieces to the middle piece, thereby extending the middle piece in the longitudinal direction and forming the receiving elements with substantially continuous peripheral walls over their entire length.

Claim 33 recites a door handle similar to the door handle of claim 14. In addition to the aforementioned elements, claim 33 further recites that the end pieces be of a size wherein when pressed into a corresponding receiving element, a force-locking connection is formed. The plug elements further include a circumferential projection of smaller cross-sectional area than the remainder of the plug elements, such that when the middle piece and end pieces are joined there is no discontinuity between the end pieces and the middle pieces.

U.S. Patent No. 5,144,718 to Ozawa, in contrast, recites a much more complex arrangement of elements to result in a door handle. More specifically, the door handle of Ozawa comprises a hollow pull member and a pair of fittings 8, 9 to be coupled with opposite ends of the pull member 7 (column 2, lines 12 – 16). The fittings 8, 9 include a hollow block and a projection extending from the hollow block integrally therewith. The projection has a base and an end which is slightly thinner than the base, with the end of the projection having grooves. An elastic tubular spacer of synthetic resin is attached to

and around the end of the projection and includes wedges so that the spacer can be partially deformed inwardly by the wedges into the grooves when the fitting is connected to the hollow pull member (column 2, lines 21 – 36).

As may be appreciated, this is a much more complex arrangement than the elements recited in Applicant's claims. More specifically, U.S. Patent No. 5,144,718 to Ozawa does not teach or suggest in an obvious manner the arrangement of claims 14, 25, 29, and 33 and the claims dependent therefrom.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 14 – 34 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell W. Warnock

Registration No. 32,860

March 31, 2008

BSH Home Appliances Corp.  
100 Bosch Blvd.  
New Bern, NC 28562  
Phone: 252-672-7927  
Fax: 714-845-2807  
russ.warnock@bshg.com